

DAVID VITTER
LOUISIANA

DEPUTY WHIP

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Environment and Public Works

Foreign Relations

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Special Committee on Aging

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 31, 2008

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Chairwoman Barbara Boxer
Senate Committee on
Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member James Inhofe
Senate Committee on
Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Boxer and Ranking Member Inhofe:

I am writing to request the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works expeditiously adopt a resolution to allow for additional appropriations to be made for the updated 100-year level hurricane and flood protection work in Louisiana that is authorized in section 7012 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007.

In 2005, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused widespread devastation across south Louisiana, and recovery has proven costly and difficult. But your continued support has allowed this process to move forward. Your leadership last year resulted in passage of WRDA 2007, which provided authorization for increased hurricane and flood protection projects to help prevent future disasters. With this in mind, I write to request that the committee pass the Vitter resolution as soon as possible to take the first step in allowing for additional appropriations to be made for funding vital hurricane, coastal and flood protection needs in Louisiana.

As you know, in WRDA 2007, I helped author section 7012 that authorizes funds for improved hurricane and flood protection projects associated with the updated 100-year protection standard. Section 7012 allows for additional appropriations to be made beyond the authorization through the committee resolution process. Necessary federal funding for this work has been provided in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget request, and as the committee of jurisdiction over authorization of these funds, I know you will agree that adopting a resolution to allow for additional funds represents an important first step.

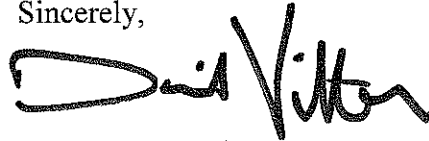
This first step by the Committee is important for moving the Congressional process forward at a time when it is critical for Congress to approve additional Federal funds required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by October 1, 2008, in order to meet the President's commitment to complete the Corps of Engineers work necessary for the updated 100-year protection standard for the greater New Orleans area by the 2011 hurricane season.

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Again, please find attached the Vitter resolution, which I request that the committee pass as soon as possible. Your support has allowed the recovery process to move forward, and the passage of this resolution will continue to help protect Louisianans from future hurricanes. I look forward to working with you accomplish this goal and appreciate your support and prompt consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Vitter". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "D" and a prominent "V".

David Vitter
United State Senator